

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A golf ball comprising a core, an intermediate layer enclosing the core to form a sphere, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein each component has a Shore D hardness, a Deflection amount, an initial velocity (in m/s) and a thickness (in mm), the Deflection amount being defined as an amount of deflection (in mm) under load of a spherical body incurred when the load is increased from an initial value of 98 N (10 kgf) to a final value of 1275 N (130 kgf), and the ball satisfies the following requirements (1)

to ~~(4)~~ (5):

(1) (Shore D hardness of the cover) - (Shore D hardness of the intermediate layer) >

0,

(2) (initial velocity of the sphere) - (initial velocity of the core) > 0,

(3) $0.90 \leq (\text{Deflection amount of the sphere})/(\text{Deflection amount of the core}) \leq 1.00$,

and

(4) the total of the thickness of the intermediate layer and the thickness of the cover is

up to 3.0 mm

(5) $0.85 \leq (\text{Deflection amount of the golf ball})/(\text{Deflection amount of the sphere}) \leq$

0.95.

2. (currently amended): The golf ball of claim 1 which further satisfies the following requirements ~~(5) to (9)~~ (6) to (10):

~~(5)~~(6) the thickness of the cover is from 0.5 mm to 2.0 mm,

~~(6)~~(7) the Shore D hardness of the cover is from 55 to 70,

~~(7)~~(8) the thickness of the intermediate layer is from 0.5 mm to 1.6 mm,

~~(8)~~(9) the Shore D hardness of the intermediate layer is from 40 to 60, and

~~(9)~~(10) the golf ball has an initial velocity of at least 76.5 m/s.

3. (currently amended): The golf ball of claim 1 which further satisfies the following requirement ~~(10)~~ (11):

~~(10)~~(11) the cover has a melt flow rate of at least 2 g/10 min.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): ~~The golf ball of claim 1~~ A golf ball comprising a core, an intermediate layer enclosing the core to form a sphere, and a cover enclosing the intermediate layer, wherein each component has a Shore D hardness, a Deflection amount, an initial velocity (in m/s) and a thickness (in mm), the Deflection amount being defined as an amount of deflection (in mm) under load of a spherical body incurred when the load is increased from an initial value of 98 N (10 kgf) to a final value of 1275 N (130 kgf), and the ball satisfies the following requirements (1) to (4):

- (1) (Shore D hardness of the cover) - (Shore D hardness of the intermediate layer) > 0,
- (2) (initial velocity of the sphere) - (initial velocity of the core) > 0,
- (3) $0.90 \leq (\text{Deflection amount of the sphere})/(\text{Deflection amount of the core}) \leq 1.00,$
- and
- (4) the total of the thickness of the intermediate layer and the thickness of the cover is up to 3.0 mm,
- wherein said intermediate layer comprises:
- (A) an ionomer resin comprising (a-1) an olefin/unsaturated carboxylic acid binary random copolymer and/or a metal ion neutralized product thereof and (a-2) an olefin/unsaturated carboxylic acid/unsaturated carboxylic acid ester ternary random copolymer and/or a metal ion neutralized product thereof in a weight ratio (a-1)/(a-2) between 100/0 and 0/100, ~~and~~
- (B) a non-ionic thermoplastic elastomer in a weight ratio A/B between 100/0 and 50/50,
- (C) 5 to 80 parts by weight of an organic fatty acid and/or a derivative thereof having a molecular weight of 280 to 1,500, and
- (D) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of a basic inorganic metal compound capable of neutralizing un-neutralized acid groups in said resin component and component (C),
- wherein the ionomer resin (A) and the non-ionic thermoplastic elastomer (B) in a weight ratio A/B between 100/0 and 50/50 are 100 parts by weight.

6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented): The golf ball of claim 5, wherein the weight ratio A/B is between 100/0 and 60/40.